AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): Device alerting to the expiration of tariffs for a franking system, comprising:

a random access memory (RAM) for recording postal data including:

a first table of postal tariffs relative to postal products and services, said first table of tariffs comprising postal tariffs applicable before a date of application,

a second table of postal tariffs relative to postal products and services, said second table of tariffs comprising postal tariffs applicable after said date of application; and

a processing unit comprising comparing means for comparing <u>one by one</u> postal data in said first table of postal tariffs with corresponding postal data in said second table of postal tariffs,

wherein said processing unit further comprises:

means for emitting to the operator of the franking system, at the time of franking, a message alerting that postal data corresponding to the mail item to be franked has been changed, if it has been determined <u>from said comparison of said postal data</u> that at least one of the postal data corresponding to the mail item to be franked has changed, and

means for receiving a decision of the operator whether to replace the postal tariffs

of the first table with the postal tariffs of the second table, for updating the postal tariffs

at the operator's request.

2.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is

loaded in the franking system at a periodicity defined by the Postal Service.

3.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is

loaded in the franking system from a remote resetting centre.

4.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is

loaded in the franking system whenever credit is reloaded.

5.   (currently amended):   Process for alerting to the expiration of tariffs for a

franking system comprising a display, a keyboard, a random access memory (RAM) for

recording postal data and a processing unit for updating these postal data, said process

comprising the following steps:

at the a time of franking, when a date of application of new postal data previously loaded

in the RAM of the franking system is identical to or earlier than a franking date of a mail item to

be franked desired by an operator of the franking system,

comparing by the processing unit of the franking system current postal data of the mail

item to be franked and present in the RAM one by one with corresponding new postal data to

determine whether there is a change in the current postal data;

when it has been determined that the current postal data has changed, displaying a

message on the display of the franking system alerting the operator to the expiration of tariffs;

receiving on the keyboard a decision of the operator whether to replace the current postal

data with the new postal data; and

when it has been determined that the current postal data has not changed, franking the

mail item with the current postal data using a franking machine even though the date of

application of the current postal data is out of date.

6.   (Previously presented): The process of Claim 5, wherein the new postal data are

stored at the location of the current postal data when the operator has accepted the updating of

the current postal data.

7.   (Original) The process of Claim 6, wherein the current postal data are stored in a

blank part of the RAM, to be kept for control purposes.

8.   (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein the emission of the message alerting

to the expiration of tariffs is inhibited by the operator except for the first such message after the

franking system has been put into operation.

9.   (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the postal data comprise

postal tariffs.

10.   (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the postal data comprise

postal products and services.

11.   (canceled).

12.   (canceled).